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SUBJECT Military Changes in Bulgaria

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1. The Soviet authorities are insisting that the Bulgarians must establish horse cavalry units. These are, in the beginning, to be independent units, but may perhaps later be utilized as a regular part of the army.
2. Horses are being requisitioned or bought. They are now being assembled near Istros bayi/sig/(north of Omurfiika)/sig/. Already two units are being formed and there are to be two other cavalry units, which are to have some kind of connection with the 26th and 58th Artillery Regiments.
3. During the last few days of April 1954, the 7th and 42nd Artillery Regiments arrived in the Karagonuk/sig/ Region(north of Omurfiika)/sig/. The regiments are equipped with tanks for assault and for ordinary combat. They also have tanks of 8, 20 and 32 tons. Home stations of these regiments are not known. Source is trying to ascertain cavalry tables of organization.
4. The Soviet military authorities are moving some of their own troops into Bulgaria. Between 6 and 7 Apr 54 two light artillery batteries were sent to Kaka-bayir/sig/(south of Sojopol)/sig/. Soviet troops have also put long range artillery in position at Avastefan/sig/Kristo, and the slopes of Mt. Drakosa/sig/. In the Sojopol-Kir-Ha-25X1--Vasiliko area, the artillery installations were built by Soviet specialists, who used no Bulgars at all. Oil fuel is daily accumulated in the subterranean depots of this district. All these areas are strictly guarded. It is reported that even a Soviet soldier was killed by the guards for having inadvertently strayed across a forbidden line.

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5. On 26 Apr 54, Soviet troops, belonging to the 3rd Engineer Regiment, and units of the 48th Motorized Regiment reached Burgas. They are on their way to Kayali. The troops arrived by sea from Odessa. It was at first supposed that they would merely pass through Bulgaria. It now appears, however, that they are to be permanently stationed there. Source is further investigating their movements.
6. All this may have some relation to the morale of the Bulgarian Army, which may be bad and which certainly has weak spots. It may need Soviet support. Five Bulgarian soldiers had to be punished in the Yambol area for denouncing some of the things they had seen the Communists do. On 3 May 54, Nako Potchitev and Petka Negelov were executed for having led opposition to taxes and sabotage agricultural production. Fourteen others were deported. It was to some of these incidents that the soldiers objected. A Soviet political inspector is being sent to investigate the situation at Karabosa, [sic] which is a center of "nationalist reactionaries."

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